

For Immediate Release

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September 21, 2009

201-222-2828

Newark to receive 2 grants from the Department of Justice

Washington, D.C.- Today, Congressman Albio Sires announced that Newark will receive two separate grants from the U.S. Department of Justice to improve safety for Newark's residents. The first grant, worth \$500,000 will allow Newark to support formerly incarcerated people as they integrate into the community, the economy, and their families. Congressman Sires helped to secure funding for the "Returning Offender Initiative". The second grant, worth \$44,698, is funded through the Fiscal Year 2009 Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program. These funds will be used to train law enforcement professionals to deliver a life-skills, gang awareness, and violence-avoidance curriculum to Newark's students.

"Together these grants will help law enforcement officials in Newark prevent future crime," said Sires. "Programs that help transition formerly incarcerated individuals back into society offer hope to people who might be down on their luck and at-risk of future criminal activity. On the other hand, programs that educate students against gangs are great tools to stop a life of crime and violence before it begins." said Sires.

The Returning Offender Initiative will connect employers with quality workers, help individuals with substance abuse and mental health issues find treatment, and get families the support that they need to welcome their family member back home after prison. The G.R.E.A.T. Program focuses on preventing crime by reaching out to students in elementary and middle school, and their families to teach them skills to avoid gang pressure and youth violence

"Newark's receipt of these grants is testament to its efforts to stop crime and I am proud to support their efforts," Sires added.

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